

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computerized method for rendering images,
comprising:

5 receiving from a client a render job having an
associated job profile;

distributing the render job via a communications medium to at least one of a plurality of render servers based at least in part on the job profile;

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rendering the render job; and
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10 forwarding the rendered render job to a network
storage system for retrieval by the client.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving from a client the render job from a client comprises receiving the render job from a computer remote from the plurality of render servers.

20 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein distributing the render job comprises distributing the render job by a scheduler, the first scheduler operable to determine which of the plurality of render servers is capable of rendering the render job.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the scheduler is
operable to determine which of the plurality of render
servers is capable of rendering the render job by
accessing a database storing the capabilities of each of
the plurality of render servers.

30 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the capabilities
 database stores the type of rendering package associated
 with each of the plurality of render servers.

a resource database comprising resource information regarding the plurality of render servers; and

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13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the resource information comprises hardware configuration information regarding the render hosts.

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at* 14. A system for providing distributed rendering servers comprising:

a local rendering system operable to receive and render a render job; and

5 at least one remote rendering system operable to receive from the local rendering system the render job and render the render job and further operable to return a result of the render job to the local rendering system.

10 15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the local rendering system comprises:

a plurality of render servers operable to render a render job having an associated job profile;

15 a resource database comprising resource information regarding the plurality of render servers; and

20 a schedule server coupled to the render server via a communications medium and operable to distribute the render job to one or more of a plurality of render servers based on a comparison of the job profile and the resource information.

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at* 16. The system of Claim 14, wherein the remote rendering system comprises:

25 a plurality of render servers operable to render a render job having an associated job profile;

a resource database comprising resource information regarding the plurality of render servers; and

30 a schedule server coupled to the render server via a communications medium and operable to distribute the render job to one or more of a plurality of render servers based on a comparison of the job profile and the resource information.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the resource information comprises the type of rendering package associated with each of the plurality of render servers.

18. The system of Claim 16, wherein the resource information comprises a processing status for each of the plurality of render servers.

19. The system of Claim 16, wherein the schedule server is operable to determine whether a particular one of the render servers is capable of rendering a particular render job.

20. The system of Claim 16, wherein the resource database further comprises resource information regarding a plurality of render hosts associated with respective ones of the render servers.

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    receiving a render job from a client at a first
rendering site;

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22. The method of Claim 21, and further comprising transmitting the render result to the client.

24. The method of Claim 21, and further comprising storing the render result in a location accessible by the client.

a plurality of render servers operable to render a render job having an associated job profile;

a schedule server coupled to the render server via a communications medium and operable to distribute the render job to one or more of a plurality of render servers based on a comparison of the job profile and the resource information.

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alp* 26. The method of Claim 21, wherein the second rendering site comprises:

5 a plurality of render servers operable to render a render job having an associated job profile;

a resource database comprising resource information regarding the plurality of render servers; and

10 a schedule server coupled to the render server via a communications medium and operable to distribute the render job to one or more of a plurality of render servers based on a comparison of the job profile and the resource information.

27. The method of Claim 21, and further comprising
15 transferring files associated with the render job from the first site to the second site, the associated files being necessary to render the render job.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the associated
20 files comprise a texture file.

29. The method of Claim 21, and further comprising
notifying, by the second rendering site, the first
rendering site when the render job has been rendered.